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December 23, 2004

SOLDIERS OF V CORPS' 45TH MEDICAL COMPANY RETURN HOME FROM IRAQ IN TIME FOR HOLIDAYS

By Rabia Nombamba

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ANSBACH, Germany — More than 100 soldiers from the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of V Corps' 421st Medical Battalion (Evacuation) returned to Katterbach Kaserne here December 22 after an 11-month deployment to Iraq.

The unit's mission "downrange" was to provide medical evacuation support for coalition forces and Iraqis in support of the second iteration of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In performing that mission, Soldiers of the 45th evacuated more than 3,800 patients while conducting approximately 2,500 medical evacuation missions that totaled 4,550 flying hours.



RABIA NOMBAMBA
Sgt. Sean Smedley of V Corps' 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) hugs his daughter and wife during upon the unit's return December 22 from an 11-month deployment in Iraq to Katterbach Kaserne in Ansbach, Germany.

Loved ones and friends gathered in the 45th's hangar here to anxiously await their Soldiers' return.

"I will see him any minute. It just seems so unreal. I just can't grasp that he really will be home for Christmas," said Bridgette Wisdom as she waited for her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wisdom.

The troops marched in formation through the hangar doors at about 12:30 a.m.

Following a brief ceremony, the Soldiers were immediately dismissed to join their families and friends.

For the Wisdoms the moment was all hugs and tears, the joy and relief evident on their faces.

The 45th's troops will now undergo a mandatory 7-day reintegration training period before being released to go on block leave.

